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PLANERA AQUATICA, THE PLANER-TREE.—Botanists of the South and South-west would confer a favor and benefit, if they would send to Professor Gray, of Cambridge, good specimens, in flower and fruit, of this rare tree; also, a stock of the fresh ripe fruit from which the tree may be raised. There are very few good specimens extant in the principal herbaria, and the tree is nearly or quite lost from cultivation, so far as we can learn, both in Europe and in this country. The monographer of the *Ulmaceæ*, for DeCandolle's Prodrômus, particularly needs specimens at an early date.—A. GRAY.

VIOLA ROTUNDIFOLIA.—This plant was found in bloom April 23, in the vicinity of New Bedford, growing in mossy hummocks, in a rather dry, open place. The plant must be rare near the coast in this latitude, as it is not given in any of the local catalogues (Bigelow, Irving, Olney, Hitchcock, etc.) as occurring so near it.—H. W.

ZOOLOGY.

HATCHING THE COTALPA LANIGERA.—Up to the time of writing the article on page 186 of the NATURALIST, we had not succeeded in getting the eggs of the Goldsmith Beetle. On the evening of the 13th June last, we caught in the drug-store, Keyport, whither they were attracted by the profusion of light, four Cotalpas, representing both sexes. These were taken home and well cared for. On the 16th a pair coupled. A jar of earth was at once provided, and the beetles placed on top of the dirt. In the evening the female burrowed and disappeared. Near midnight, she had not returned to the surface; next morning she had reappeared. The earth was then very carefully taken from the jar, and, as removed, was inspected with a glass of wide field but low power. Fourteen eggs were found; not laid (as we expected) in one spot, or group, but singly, and at different depths. I was surprised at their great size. Laid lengthwise, end touching end, two eggs measured very nearly $\frac{3}{16}$ of an inch. They were like white wax, semi-translucent; in form, long-ovoid, and perfectly symmetrical. On the 13th of July one had hatched; the grub was well formed and very lively. Its dimensions were about $\frac{5}{16}$ of an inch in length, and about $\frac{3}{30}$ of an inch in thickness. It was a dull white, the head-plate precisely that dull yellow seen in the adult grub, the legs the same color, and the extremity of the abdomen, lead-color, the skin being transparent. For food, a sod of white clover (*trifolium repens*) was given them, roots downward, knowing that the young larvæ would come upward to eat. They were then left undisturbed until August 19th, when the sod was removed, and it was found that the grubs had eaten into it, thus making little oval chambers, which were enlarged as the eating went on. They were carefully picked out, and a fresh sod of clover and grass supplied. They had now grown $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch in length, preserving the same colors.

It is quite possible that a few of the eggs escaped me in the search. I

am of opinion, however, that from fifteen to twenty is the average number laid by one beetle; a number so small, that reckoning the ordinary casualties to which this not very active insect is exposed, it is not likely ever to become very formidable to the agriculturist. In short, the insect lays her eggs in the night,—probably not more than twenty. The hatching of these required, in the present instance, twenty-seven days. It must be remembered that a large portion of this time was remarkably cold and wet. It is almost certain that, with favorable thermal conditions, this might be lessened fully seven days.

These brief notes, added to the article on page 186, may be regarded as giving a degree of completeness to the history of the Goldsmith Beetle, as it is thus pursued from the egg to the imago.—S. LOCKWOOD.

THE SEVENTEEN-YEAR CICADA.—Seeing in the July number of the NATURALIST a request for twigs of *oak* which had been stung by the so-called Seventeen-year Locust, I take the liberty of sending you twigs from *eleven* different varieties of trees in which the females have deposited their eggs. I do this to show that the insect seems indifferent as to the *kind* of wood made use of as a depository of her eggs. These were gathered July 1st, in about an hour's time, on the south hills of the "Great Chester Valley," Chester county, Pa. No doubt the number of trees and bushes might be much increased. The female, in depositing her eggs, seems to prefer well-matured wood, rejecting the growing branch of this year, and using last year's wood, and frequently that of the year before, as some of the twigs enclosed will show. An orchard which I visited was so badly "stung," that the apple-trees will be seriously injured, and the peach-trees will hardly survive their treatment. Instinct did not seem to caution the animal against using improper depositories, as I found many cherry trees had been used by them, the gum exuding from the wounds, in that case, sealing the egg in beyond escape.

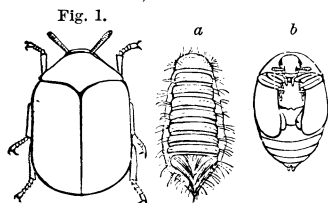
The males have begun to die, and are found in numbers under the trees; the females are yet busy with their peculiar office. The length of wood perforated on each branch varied from one to two and a half feet, averaging probably eighteen inches; these seemed to be the work of one insect on each twig, showing a wonderful fecundity.

The recurrence of three "Locust-years" is well remembered in this locality—'34, '57, '68. There has been no variation from the usual time, establishing the regularity of their periodical appearance.—WILLIAM KITE, *West Town, Chester County, Pa.*

MUSEUM PESTS.—Every naturalist dreads the presence of the entomological rogues whose portraits are here exhibited. The ugly, bristly, insidious larva, which so carefully hides in the body of the dried insect or stuffed specimen it consumes, can be kept out only with the greatest precaution. The most injurious insect is the Larder-beetle, *Dermestes lardarius*. This beetle is nearly half an inch long, oblong-oval in shape, with short legs, and is black, with the base of the elytra covered by a broad gray-buff band. It is timid and slow in its movements, and when dis-

turbed, seeks a shelter or mimics death. Its larva is covered with hairs, the body ending in a pencil of them. The *Attagenus pellio* is a smaller black beetle, with two dots on the wing-covers. Its larva is slenderer and proportionally longer, while the reddish-brown hairs lie closer to the body, so as to make it glisten in the light. We have found the larva of an allied beetle, but nearly twice as large as that of *D. lardarius*, crawling up the side of an out-house.

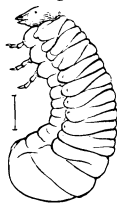
Anthrenus muscorum (Fig. 1; *a*, larva; *b*, pupa; much enlarged) is a smaller beetle, covered with transverse wavy bands of irregular spots. Its



larva is short and thick, with long bristles, which are largest and thickest at the end of the body. The pupa transforms beneath the larva skin during the summer. Two or three other species are found in museums. Among them is *Ptinus fur*, which is figured on page 165 of the present volume of the

Fig. 2

NATURALIST, of which we here figure the larva (Fig. 2), which was found with the beetles in dead and dried snail-shells, in the Museum of the Peabody Academy. They may be killed like the Clothes-moth, also found in museums, by saturating the specimen attacked by them with benzine. To prevent their attacks, they should be kept out of collections by keeping benzine in constant evaporation in open vessels. Camphor and turpentine and creosote are also very useful. Zoölogical specimens recently prepared should be placed in quarantine, so we may be sure none of the museum pests will be introduced into the drawers or cases of the cabinet while either in the egg or larva state. Their presence in cabinets may be detected by the dust they make falling on the white surface beneath. Specimens thoroughly impregnated with carbolic acid, or arsenic, or corrosive sublimate, will not be attacked by them.



GEOLOGY.

ANTIQUITY OF MAN.—In regard to the alleged discovery of human bones in the coral formation of Florida (see NATURALIST, Vol. II, p. 386), and which was first published by Professor Agassiz in Nott & Gliddon's "Types of Mankind" (eighth edition, p. 352), and has appeared in other works, including Lyell's "Antiquity of Man," we beg to give our readers the following statement in his own words, by Count L. F. Pourtales, the original discoverer of these bones: "The human jaw and other bones, found in Florida by myself in 1848, were not in a coral formation, but in a fresh-water sandstone on the shore of Lake Monroe, associated with fresh-water shells of species still living in the lake (*Paludina*, *Ampullaria*, etc.). No date can be assigned to the formation of that deposit, at least from present observation."